

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) A bipartite RNA viral vector, comprising:
 - (a) a modified tobaviruses RNA-1 comprising a first foreign RNA sequence, operably linked to 3'-end of the stop codon of the RNA sequence that codes for a cysteine-rich protein of RNA-1;
 - (b) a modified tobaviruses RNA-2 comprising a promoter-gene construct, which comprises a subgenomic promoter operably linked to the 5' end of a second foreign RNA sequence, wherein said promoter-gene construct is inserted in place of the 2C gene.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously presented) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 3, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA is either a complete open reading frame or a partial open reading frame.
7. (Previously presented) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 3, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA is in either a positive sense or an antisense orientation.

8. (Previously presented) The RNA viral vector according to Claim 6, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA codes for part of a protein.
9. (Original) The RNA viral vector according to Claim 8, wherein said vector is a silencing vector.
10. (Previously presented) The RNA viral vector according to Claim 6, wherein said second foreign RNA codes for a protein.
11. (Original) The RNA viral vector according to Claim 10, wherein said vector is a silencing vector or an expression vector.
12. (Previously presented) The RNA viral vector according to Claim 3, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA sequence is obtained from any member of a library of RNA sequences taken from a eukaryotic or prokaryotic species.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Previously presented) The viral RNA vector according to Claim 6, wherein said first or said second foreign RNA encodes for all or part of putrescine N-methyltransferase.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Previously presented) A method of expressing one or more foreign gene in a plant host, comprising:

infecting a plant host with the RNA viral vector of Claim 3, whereby said second foreign gene is expressed in the plant host.

21. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, furthering comprising allowing the viral vector to infect the plant systemically.

22. (Previously presented) A method of silencing one or more plant host genes, comprising:
infecting a plant host with the RNA viral vector of Claim 3, whereby the expression of said first or said second foreign RNA sequence causes silencing of an endogenous plant host gene.

23. (Original) The method according to Claim 22, furthering comprising allowing the viral vector to infect the plant systemically.

24. (Original) A method of simultaneously silencing a plant host gene and expressing a foreign gene, comprising:
infecting a host with the bipartite RNA viral vector of Claim 3, whereby the first foreign RNA sequence causes silencing of an endogenous gene of a plant host, and the second foreign RNA is expressed in the plant host.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, further comprising allowing the viral vector to infect the plant systemically.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)
31. (Canceled)
32. (Previously presented) A plant host infected by a viral RNA vector according to Claim 3.
33. (Canceled)
34. (Canceled)
35. (Canceled)
36. (Previously presented) A method of changing the phenotype or biochemistry of a plant host, comprising:
 - (a) infecting a plant host with the RNA viral vector of Claim 3,
 - (b) expressing transiently said foreign RNA sequence in said plant host; and
 - (c) changing one or more phenotypic or biochemical characteristics in said plant host.
37. (Canceled)